

## Health Care & the OCP

I have recently had conversations with Ann Kjerulf of the CitySpaces Consulting group advising the OCP and had an email reply from Dave Witty confirming that the subject of Health Care will be added to the OCP agenda.

Much, if not the entire framing for the OCP is through the lens of land use, which may miss issues relevant to health care in an island setting.

Issues:

Certainly the helicopter landing emergency evacuation site falls under land use and thus the OCP. There was a momentary gap in this service over the summer. I am not up to date on progress for permanent night lighting for night landing for example. Where are we with this?

Who negotiates Bowen Island,s planning & health care needs with Vancouver Coastal Health?

I understand that currently there are 2 paramedics living on the island and that if both are accompanying an emergency evacuation on the water taxi no paramedical services above the level of the fire department are available if there is a 2nd or multiple event. Where does or should responsibility for planning around this capacity reside?

Currently we rely on free enterprise for doctor,s & dentist services and establishing their physical offices as well as adjuncts like physiotherapy. What happens when the current physicians retire or move off the island ? Where does or should responsibility for planning around this capacity reside?

Our population base is a long way from being sufficient for supporting a Salt Spring sized hospital. At what point in serving a growing and in particular an aging population does an enhanced clinic begin to make sense? Something larger than a doctor,s office, but smaller than a hospital. What would that be? Should there be a staffed after hours nursing station, for example?

My early conversations with Ann on this subject indicated that Health Care „operations% or services are not within the „land use% orientation of the scope of the OCP. Yet all the land here is on an island which means we have unique operations and services needs.

Shouldn't the scope of the OCP be opened up to include health care operations and services in the Official Community Plan?

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